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In the Claims:

1.(currently amended) A method for treating an allergen-contaminated inanimate substrate comprising: dispersing an allergen-reducing amount of an allergen-deactivating compound into an airspace as a vapour in which an allergen-contaminated inanimate substrate is located, to provide a prolonged reduction in the allergen loading of the substrate, wherein the reduction after 14 days is at least as great as the initial reduction.

2.(canceled)

3.(canceled)

4.(previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the dispersal of the deactivant dispersed into the airspace is aided by heat.

5.(previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the heat applied to the deactivant is by use of an oil burner, candle or hotplate.

6.(previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the deactivant is dispersed into the airspace over a period of at least 30 minutes.

7.(currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the deactivant is selected from:

- a terpene hydrocarbon;
- a citrus oil;
- ~~a mint oil;~~
- ~~bois de rose oil;~~
- ~~oil of jasmine;~~
- ~~frankincense;~~

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~~oil of bergamot; and~~
~~oil of lemon grass;~~
or a component thereof.

8.(previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the deactivant comprises a terpene hydrocarbon or a component thereof.

9.(currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the deactivant comprises β -pinene.

10.(previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the deactivant comprises orange oil or a component thereof.

11.(currently amended) A method for treating an allergen-contaminated inanimate substrate comprising : dispersing an allergen-reducing amount of an allergen-deactivating compound into an airspace as a vapour in which an allergen-contaminated inanimate substrate is located, to provide a prolonged reduction in the allergen loading of the substrate, wherein the reduction after 28 days is at least as great as the initial reduction.

12.(canceled)

13.(previously presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein the dispersal of the deactivant dispersed into the airspace is aided by heat.

14.(previously presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein the heat applied to the deactivant is by use of an oil burner, candle or hotplate.

15.(previously presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein the deactivant is dispersed into the airspace over a period of at least 30 minutes.

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16.(currently amended) The method according to claim 11 wherein the deactivant is selected from:

a terpene hydrocarbon;

a citrus oil;

~~a mint oil;~~

~~bois de rose oil;~~

~~oil of jasmine;~~

~~frankincense;~~

~~oil of bergamot; and~~

~~oil of lemon grass;~~

or a component thereof.

17.(previously presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein the deactivant comprises a terpene hydrocarbon or a component thereof.

18.(previously presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein the deactivant comprises β -pinene.

19.(previously presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein the deactivant comprises orange oil or a component thereof.